

REMARKS

Claims 16-23 and 27-29 are canceled. Claims 30-45 are new. Thus, claims 1-15, 24-26, and 30-45 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art. Each issue raised in the Office Action mailed April 12, 2007 is addressed hereinafter.

I. RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Office Action required restriction to one of two asserted inventions denoted I and II. In reply, applicants elect Group I, without traverse. After amendment herein, Group I consists of claims 1-15, 24-26, and 30-45.

II. NEW CLAIMS

New claims 30-45 are similar in scope to selected claims among claims 2-15, except that claims 30-45 are expressed in apparatus format and depend from claim 25 or claim 26. Therefore, claims 30-45 fall within Group I. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

For the reasons set forth above, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone relating to any issue that would advance examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a check for the petition for extension of time fee and other applicable fees is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to any applicable fees and

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to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: May 7, 2007

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